

they need to be transitioned into adulthood.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. BASS. I am hoping H.R. 5456 will take into consideration unintended consequences and not contribute to homelessness amongst youth.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago I authored and passed into law the Protect our Kids Act. It became law with the help of former Ways and Means Republican Chair Dave Camp, and it established a commission to eliminate child abuse and neglect fatalities. It is a mark of the progress—or the lack of progress that this year, when that commission came forward with its report, Republicans on our committee would not permit a hearing to accept the modest findings of the commission.

And so we have reached tonight. I was offered in the traditional Washington way an opportunity to put my name on this legislation. It has some meritorious provisions that eventually come into effect, but I could not do that and face my constituents in Texas saying that I had done something to address this crisis when I know, in fact, we are not doing what needs to be done to address this crisis.

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I advanced one of many alternatives to provide the dollars to deal with this crisis now. That was a proposal not for new taxes, but it was a proposal for tax compliance that would have fully funded the bipartisan agreement from the Senate.

But for the ideological commitment to oppose any new resources going to address child abuse, we would have those dollars. We wouldn't be taking the money out of good adoption programs. We wouldn't be delaying a response for 3 years. We would be doing something now to address the challenges that are out there for the children who face abuse and neglect today.

That is what should be happening. That is what today's bill fails to do, though it offers us the promise of eventual action to do what we should be doing right now.

And why wait three years to respond to this crisis? Because the Republican-controlled Ways and Means Committee that vulnerable children can receive federal relief only from money taken from other children or other portions of initiatives within the jurisdiction of the Human Resources Subcommittee. Republicans rejected the use of any additional resources to prevent child abuse, including a simple tax compliance measure that would require the filing of a 1099 for alimony payments to ensure that those payments were being reported as income, which federal law has long required. That modest requirement would have provided more than \$2 billion of resources, without raising a dime of taxes.

Because taking money from adoption and congregate care fails to fully fund even today's delayed response, Republicans must also today waive a Budget point of order, since this bill does not comply with their own Budget rules.

Finally, this bill makes wholly unjustified and discriminatory cuts to adoption assistance. The sole reason for these cuts is budgetary—that was apparently the easiest way to find funds instead of adding the necessary revenue. This bill is paid for, in part, by delaying funding for children under the age of 4 to be adopted out of foster care, for those children with special needs, physical or mental, who are the hardest to adopt. According to a law Congress passed in 2008, those adopting 2- and 3-years-olds, who would otherwise have been entering foster care, would have been eligible in October for modest federal assistance; infants and 1-year-olds would have been eligible next year. Now, that funding will be delayed 2½ years, to pay for new services, none of which become available until 2020. The only excuse given for taking almost \$700 million that otherwise would have supported adoptions is that some states are failing to reinvest in foster children the money that they save in foster care costs for each child who is adopted. There is no example of fraud or abuse, only the all too typical diversion by some states for other public services. Some states like Texas, which so regularly ignores the needs of its children, reinvested only a dime of every dollar of adoption savings in foster care. Others like Florida followed federal law and reinvested every dollar of their savings. This bill discriminates against Florida and similar states.

And what does this bill propose to do to crack down on this state diversion of savings from adoption? It asks for a government report. In 2014, Congress enacted provisions of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act to prevent diversion. The Administration should enforce that Act. Requesting that the Government Accountability Office provide information already available from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services adds nothing not already known. But if all we wanted was a report, we could get that report just by writing a letter to the GAO. Seeking another report represents cover for taking away resources that would otherwise have benefitted blameless infants and toddlers.

We have a serious problem that deserves a serious state-federal, bipartisan solution. I am not opposing today's bill, but it does far less than it could and should have. It is a true missed opportunity to help some of our most vulnerable Americans. Today's bill does something, someday. We ought to be responding fully and effectively this day.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, this is bipartisan, bicameral legislation. It takes important steps to keep more children safely at home and out of foster care.

Under the current law, most Federal funding for child welfare is directed toward reimbursing States after they place a child in foster care. This is the least desirable outcome.

This legislation turns this around by putting resources towards preventative

services to keep children safely with their parents or relatives. Most importantly, this bill will help ensure that more children grow up in a safe home surrounded by a stable family.

Strong families make for a strong community. I urge my colleagues to support the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5456, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1777. An act to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2736. An act to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

#### WORLD HARVEST CHURCH'S 15th ANNUAL HONOR OUR HEROES

(Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's Sixth Congressional District, I rise today to recognize the amazing works of Roswell, Georgia's World Harvest Church and their 15th annual Honor Our Heroes event scheduled for July 3 of this year.

The World Harvest Church has made a truly meaningful difference in people's lives by going into communities and ministering to all, young and old, with messages of hope and demonstrating the true love of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, part of this service is their annual Honor Our Heroes event, which is a wonderful opportunity for our local community to honor our veterans whose selfless acts of heroism have helped maintain our most fundamental freedoms: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The World Harvest Church also serves as headquarters for missionary